like US which got accentuated due to Sept. 11 attacks. It is also due to increased competition from our neighbouring countries like China, Bangladesh etc.

Assistance for setting up Handicraft complexes in Andhra Pradesh

1805. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided assistance for setting up handicraft complexes in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the places where these complexes have been set up; and

(c) the other places in the State where more such complexes are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR: (a) to (b) Yes Sir, assistance has been provided for setting up of an "Urban Hatt" at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) No proposal is pending with the Government of India. Closure

of cotton textiles Mills

1806. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 50 cotton textile mills across the country have been closed in the last 18 months on account of sharp decline in international cotton prices and decline in exports;

(b) if so, the details of the rehabilitation package being worked, if any, for the mills and the workers; and

(c) the specific measures contemplated for giving boost to cotton textile exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR: (a) to (c) During 1-4-2000 to 30-9-2001, a total of 58 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills have been closed on account of